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NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF FRECKLED TILEFISH *BRANCHIOSTEGUS SAWAKINENSIS* AMIRTHALINGAM, 1969 (BRANCHIOSTEGIDAE) IN THE NORTHERN RED SEA.

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Abstract. – A new record of *Branchiostegus sawakinensis* Amirthalingam, 1969, extends the distribution of this species to the Gulf of Aqaba in the Northern Red Sea.

Résumé. - La description d'un exemplaire de *Branchiostegus sawakinensis* Amirthalingam, 1969, étend la distribution de l'espèce jusqu'au Nord de la Mer Rouge, dans le Golfe d'Aqaba.

It has recently become increasingly apparent that study of the deep water ichthyofauna of the Gulf of Aqaba, in view of its unique oceanographic and structural characteristics, will reveal previously unknown species (Ben Tuvia, 1982; Fricke & Kacher, 1983).

On May 13, 1982, several species of fishes were caught by handline by the staff of Coral World Underwater Observatory, Eilat, in deep water near Eilat harbor. Several of these species proved to be new records for the region (Diamant and Porter, 1983; Diamant, M.S.). Among them was a single specimen of *Branchiostegus sawakinensis* Amirthalingam, 1969, which was caught at a depth of 70 m.

Branchiostegus sawakinensis was originally described from Sawakin, Red Sea. The species is also known from South African waters and ranges to the Phillippines (Dooley, 1978, Dolley & Rau, 1982). There have been no reports of the species from sites further north of Sudan in the Red Sea. It appears from the records of Amirthalingam (1969), Clark and Ben Tuvia (1973) and Dooley (1978) that the species inhabits relatively deep waters, below 45 m, and down to 50 fathoms.

The present specimen, TL 235, is deposited at the Zoological Museum of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, HUJF 11160. Its measurements and meristic counts (Table I) fit those recorded by Amirthalingam (1969), Clark and Ben Tuvia (1973) and Dooley (1978).

Color (fresh) : reddish on dorsal side, flanks silverish becoming white ventrally. Basal portions of all dorsal fin membranes are black. Two parallel yellow bands pass along caudal fin. A dark blotch is present on the pectoral axil. A black ridge, beginning at the occiput between the eyes, extends to the origin of the dorsal fin. Rows of black spots decorate the flanks below the lateral line and posterior to the pectoral fin. Although fading slightly, the black markings persist is the alcohol preserved specimen.

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Table I. – Measurements (in mm) of *Branchiostegus sawakinensis*, HUJF 11160, caught off Eilat, 13.5.1982.

Weight(g)	135	Scales	8 + 21
TL	235	Gill rakers	19
SL	194	Dorsal	VII 15
Depth	53 (27.3% SL)	Anal	II 12
Snout	20.9 (10.8% SL)	Pectoral	18
Eye diam.	20.2 (10.4% SL)	Pelvic	5
Int. orb.	17 (8.8% SL)	Caudal	17
Head	53.5 (27.6% SL)	Lat. line	51

MEDITERRANEAN FISHES PRESENT IN THE RED SEA : PAN-OCEANIC AND ANTI-LESSEPSIAN SPECIES (1)

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Abstract. About 60 species of fishes exist in the Mediterranean and also in the Red Sea. Many (pan-oceanic) are found in all the oceans, others are considered as recent immigrants from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean (Lessepsian) or vice-versa (Anti-Lessepsian). Nearly 50 Mediterranean species have been reported from the Suez Canal and some of them reached Suez. However, only 5-6 species have been surely found in the Red Sea, were all the captures occurred in the more northern zones.

Résumé. Environ 60 espèces de poissons sont communes à la Méditerranée et à la Mer Rouge. Plusieurs (pan-océaniques) se trouvent dans tous les océans, d'autres sont considérées comme des immigrants récents de la Mer Rouge vers la Méditerranée (Lessepsiennes) ou vice-versa (Anti-lessepsiennes). Presque 50 espèces méditerranéennes ont été signalées dans le Canal de Suez et quelques unes ont atteint Suez. Toutefois, 5-6 espèces seulement ont été sûrement trouvées dans la Mer Rouge, où toutes les captures ont été faites dans les zones les plus septentrionales.

In further lines it will be reminded that faunistic exchanges between the Mediterranean and the Red sea were possible in historical times even before the opening of the Suez canal. However, the latter facilitated the movements that chiefly occurred in a south-north direction (Lessepsian immigration: Por, 1969) but also vice-versa (anti-Lessepsian). According to the available and reliable data, 63 species

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(1) A communication having the same subject of this paper was prepared in occasion of the congress on the Red sea to be held in Ghardaqa (Egypt) in october 1981. As it was delayed to 1982 but it was not possible for me to attend it, the note is presented here in a shorter and revised form. I feel obliged to prof. A. Ben Tuvia and F.D. Por (Zool. Dept., The Hebrew University, Jerusalem) for their suggestions and bibliographical help.

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